



Letters from Lost Towns

Winter 2011

C-14 Dating Takes Pig Point Back Over 8,000 years

~ Al Luckenbach

News & Future Events

Historic London Town's Winter Lecture Series: Interpreting the Past
March 1, 9, 22, & 29, 10 a.m.
Check London Town's website for details on speakers and cost.

Middle Atlantic Archaeological Conference
March 17-20, 2011
Ocean City, Maryland

Lost Towns archaeologists will present papers about this year's discoveries and research, and also participate in a hands-on session about prehistoric lithic technology.

2011 Preservation and Revitalization Conference
May 19-20, 2011

Annapolis, Maryland
Preservation Maryland hosts its annual conference in Annapolis this year! Jane Cox will be presenting about our ongoing work protecting and planning for cultural resources against the threat of sea level rise.

Stayed tuned for our 2011 Dig Days...

Last year's season at Pig Point produced an impressively deep stratigraphic column. Based on artifact styles, these superimposed layers could be seen as representing over 9,000 years of human occupation. In order to arrive at a more specific chronology, nearly a dozen Carbon 14 dates were obtained from various contexts, with results ranging from A.D. 1540 to 350 B.C. Strata from below these levels did not have the carbonized remains necessary to run dates.



Kirk-Macorkle point recovered near the features.

This dramatically changed last September with Jane Cox's discovery of two pits originating 13 strata below the ground surface. Features 111 and 112 not only had associated projectile points and other dateable artifacts, but they also had charcoal and carbonized nuts and seeds. We also recovered tiny fish bones, bits of mussel shell, and other animal bones through floatation. We quickly sent off two samples of charcoal and one of charred nuts for radiocarbon dating – and the results were impressive. Using modern correction factors, all of the C-14 results fell between 6050 B.C. and 6460 B.C., or nearly 8,500 years old.



Jane excavates one of the 8,500 year old pits.

This is one of the oldest C-14 dates from Maryland that comes from such a good context. Given the association of tools with floral and faunal remains, the importance of this find cannot be overestimated. Pig Point continues to make its mark on Maryland archaeology!

The Lost Towns Project Thanks our Partners and Supporters



A Warm Thank You to all of our Members

At the *Lost Towns Project*, we are very lucky to have supporters that value the discovery and preservation of the the past. Our sustaining membership program helps us continue our many worthwhile educational activities within our local community. Please renew your Sustaining Membership today! You can conveniently make your contribution in the enclosed envelope or online via Paypal, a secure payment portal, at our website at www.lost-townsproject.org/support.html. We greatly appreciate the support of the following individuals who have recently joined or renewed their memberships:

Special Contributor

Pat Barland
 William and Lisa Brown
 Betty Browning
 Ronald and Melissa Chew
 Alan, Linda, and Mallory Colegrove
 Ned and Betty Crandell
 Betty DeKeyser
 Harry and Liliane Foster
 The Grow Family
 Edward and Caral Grunwald
 Marjorie Hegge
 Nancy Huff
 John and Frances Koontz
 Jim Lighthizer
 Bradley and Mary McKittrick
 Sue Morris
 James and Susan Morrison

James Parker
 Orlando Ridout V
 Herbert and Marjorie Sappington
 Carole Sanner
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 Wayne and Michelle Walker
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Michael Carlton-Jones
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 Alex Lavish
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Jane Miller
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 Richard Napoli
 Michael and Carolyn Quinlan
 Ethel Stephan

Student

David Brown
 John Fury

Please renew your Membership today using the enclosed envelope, or online via Paypal. Thank you!!

Sea Level Rise Threatens Our Cultural Heritage

~ Stephanie T. Sperling

An innovative investigation of the potential threats of sea level rise to Anne Arundel County resources was undertaken by Project archaeologists and County planners in 2010, culminating in a wide-ranging vulnerability study. This effort identified 422 archaeological sites, 74 historic buildings or structures, 11 historic districts, 14 scenic and historic roads, and 18 cemeteries that could potentially be impacted or even destroyed by sea level rise in the next 50 years. The study used a 0-2 or 2-5 foot inundation model (provided by Maryland's Department of Natural Resources) as the accepted best estimated range for sea level rise in the next 100 years.

Out of the nearly 1,500 recorded archaeological sites in Anne Arundel County, 422 sites (30%) will be impacted by rising seas, 371 of which will be impacted by the more conservative estimate of 0-2 feet of rise. This will affect both prehistoric and historic sites located mainly in the eastern part of the County. A few sites along the Patuxent River may also be impacted, but considering this river flows through only a small



The Worthington Site (18AN299), a Woodland period shell midden and an historic wharf, is rapidly eroding into the Rhode River.

portion of the County after the head of tide, these sites may avoid major damage.

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A Closer Look at the Samuel Chew Site

~ John Kille

While the *Lost Towns Project* staff and volunteers have wrapped up field work at the Samuel Chew site for the winter, we have now turned our attention to processing, conserving, and analyzing a wide range of unusual and important artifacts.

The continued support of descendants of Samuel Chew made it possible to carry out archaeological field work at this important site in Southern Anne Arundel County. We would like to extend a special thanks to Ronald Chew for his continued generosity and active interest in our work. Dr. Al had the pleasure of meeting Ron and his family last winter when they visited the site of their ancestral home.

I am pleased to report a number of important discoveries from the last field season. Once again the project had eager and much-appreciated support from a large crew of college interns who made significant contributions. To date, 58 units have been excavated at the Chew site, and all four corners of the interior of the house have now been excavated.

We also achieved our goal of exposing and delineating the mansion's two enormous interior fireplaces. In April 1772, *The Maryland Gazette* reported that one

of the building's chimneys was the cause of a devastating fire that quickly destroyed the house. Fortunately for the Chews (but unfortunately for future archaeologists), the family had enough time to remove some of the building's furniture.

Over the last year a number of unusual architectural and household items have been recovered from what was once the cellar of the mansion. While excavating several feet of brick rubble is obviously a challenge, the volume and rarity of up-scale artifacts of the Chew site has never ceased to amaze even seasoned architectural historians and historical archaeologists.

It was our good fortune to encounter an early-19th century trash pit in the northeast corner of the house. Amongst the brick rubble and mortar was a layer that post-dated the building's occupation, which yielded an astounding assemblage of different types of decorated pearlwares and lusterware.

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Ronald Chew (r) and his family visit the Samuel Chew site.



One of the massive brick chimney bases uncovered in the cellar of the mansion ruins.



A variety of highly decorated pearlwares from the site, which date to after the mansion's period of occupation.

ACT Awards Ceremony Pays Homage to Excellence

~ John Kille

On October 13th, members and guests of the Anne Arundel County Trust for Preservation gathered at the First Presbyterian Church on 171 Duke of Gloucester Street in Annapolis to honor several individuals involved in preserving the historical, archaeological, and cultural resources of Anne Arundel County. This much anticipated event was again hosted by chair Will Mumford, who handled his duties with great gusto and aplomb.

The 30th Marjorie Murray Bridgman Award was presented to historian Jean Russo. Jean served as the director of research for the Historic Annapolis Foundation from 1982-2001, and currently serves as its historian. She has authored many notable and often cited published works, and co-edited *The Diary of William Faris: the Daily Life of an Annapolis Silversmith*.

The 35th Orlando Ridout Prize

recognized the Zimmerman-Wilson House, owned and restored by the First Presbyterian Church. This outstanding example of Queen Anne style architecture was con-



ACT Chairman Will Mumford with awardees Jean Russo and dedicated Lost Towns Project volunteer Barry Gay.

structed between 1893 and 1897 for Charles Zimmerman, the leader of the United States Naval Academy band and the composer of "Anchors Aweigh." The Zimmerman family owned this magnificent house for more than 80 years.

The Archaeology Volunteer Award was presented to *Lost Towns Project* volunteer Barry Gay. Barry was recognized for his continuous enthusiasm for archaeology and the history of Anne Arundel County over the past year. His hard work and expertise in the field and lab has been invaluable, and is much appreciated by the entire staff.

Several individuals made this year's ceremony memorable. Fintan Galway, owner of Galway Bay, generously provided a wide array of truly delicious food. ACT board members Sherri Johns and Mechelle Kerns carried out catering and logistics, while Darian Schwab created and sent out invitations and programs.

Finally, Jim Cheevers and the Naval Academy Museum assembled a fascinating display that showcased items associated with Charles Zimmerman. Thank you to everyone who made this year's awards ceremony a success!

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Erin Cullen's discovery of a small piece of window lead marked "(169)4*TB" was an incredible find and provides more evidence upon which to speculate when the house may have been constructed. This dated lead came is the only one found at the site.

Another fascinating discovery this season was a unique drabware strainer. Al is publishing an article about it for the American Ceramics Circle.

All of these important artifacts, and many, many others, are now being processed and analyzed by *Lost Towns* staff and dedicated volunteers at our Archaeology Lab at Historic London Town and Gardens. If you get the chance, pay us a visit and see these incredible finds firsthand!



Window lead from the Chew site, stamped with the date and initials "(169)4*TB".

Field Season at Sparrow's Rest/Java Reveals Interesting Finds

~ C. Jane Cox

January finds me in the office pulling together a report on last season's work undertaken by the *Lost Towns Project* at the Smithsonian Environmental Research Center (SERC). Now in our fifth year of work, this past season's archaeological investigations of the Sparrow's Rest/Java Plantation site were undertaken as a component of a FY2010 Maryland Heritage Areas Authority-funded project to expand public access to the rich historical and archaeological resources on the SERC property. Anne Arundel County Trust for Preservation, Inc. and its archaeological research arm, the *Lost Towns Project*, undertook a multi-phase archaeological investigation of several portions of the site, conducted public outreach programs for SERC's visitors, and provided technical artifact guidance to the Smithsonian Environmental Research Center's education department.



The public dig days at SERC drew many participants who assisted us in the discovery!



This delft lobed bowl was discovered in pieces face-down in a trash-filled trench next to a tobacco pipe.



The bowl has delicate decorative painting on the interior.

The (extremely hot) Phase I survey conducted in the summer identified several areas of high sensitivity for both archaeological resources and for historical viewsheds. As plans for development on the hilltop around the mansion ruins progress, we look forward to assisting SERC to more fully investigate and interpret these newly discovered resources.

The season also allowed us to resume the exploration of the Sparrow's Rest house site. This site continues to yield highly significant information from undisturbed deposits dating to the 17th century, as well as some REALLY cool artifacts! The entire site is clearly eligible for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places and retains a high level of integrity.

The most exciting part of our excavations this season was chasing down the linear trash-filled trench that extends out from the corner of the 17th century dwelling house. It reveals new information about how the Sparrow family and household used the yard space for work and subsistence. The most important discovery from the season is our new understanding of how the use of the site morphed over the centuries. The 17th century house and the later 18th century mansion seemingly have their backs to one another. The remains of the Sparrow's Rest house faces west toward a spring, the agricultural fields and the working area of the farm. This suggests an emphasis of the core agricultural and subsistence function of the farm - the proverbial "start-up" mentality. The mansion, formally placed on the hilltop, faces east towards the Rhode River. This shows a shift in how the occupants saw and used the land. The mansion faces outward to the Chesapeake Bay, symbolically looking towards the commercial expansion of the plantation economy.

Batchelor's Choice

~ Lauren Schiszik

One of my projects this winter is writing a National Register Nomination on Batchelor's Choice with Matt Bowling, which has proven to be very interesting and exciting. This is the first of two articles on the project. The next article will explore our findings from our architectural investigation and further documentary research. The documentation and research for this National Register nomination is funded by the Scattered Sites fund in Long Range Planning, Planning and Zoning Department, Anne Arundel County, and by a mini-grant from the Four Rivers Heritage Area.

Batchelor's Choice is the name Rev. Henry Hall gave to the 100-acres patented to him by Lord Baltimore in 1699 in what is now Lothian. The property's name could be a self-reference - Hall married the following year. The property remained in the Hall family until the mid-twentieth century and is still privately owned.

Today, the property is home to two historically significant structures: the main house, commonly referred to as Batchelor's Choice, and the servant's quarters adjacent to the main house. The main timber-framed house was constructed in at least five phases, beginning in the early nineteenth century or possibly even the late eighteenth century with a two story, side-passage plan house that was only one room deep. The ca. 1840s Greek-Revival addition was also only a single room deep and two stories tall. Another addition was constructed on the rear of the original structure ca. 1880, and a kitchen wing was constructed in the 1890s, likely on or near the site of an earlier kitchen wing. The interior and exterior of the house have not been altered, and are in excellent condition.

The servant's quarter is one of less than a dozen slave quarters/ tenant houses left in Anne Arundel County. As such, it is potentially more significant than the main house as an individual structure. However, the fact that both the main house and the servant's quarters still exist increases the significance of both structures.

According to Hall family history, the servant's quarters was constructed in the 1870s. However, its architectural form is quite similar to slave quarters built prior to 1864. It seems that while the terminology for these buildings changed after emancipation, the structures themselves and likely the living conditions within them, did not change at all. Historical documents also give the general location of the slave cemetery.

Both the main house and the servant's quarter are listed on Anne Arundel County and the State of Maryland's Inventory of Historic Places, and are protected at both levels of government. Listing on the National Register of Historic Places is largely honorific, as protection is typically stronger at the local level and state level than the federal level. However, listing on the National Register allows the owners of the property to utilize tax credits for its restoration and preservation, honors these sites for their historic significance, and raises public awareness about our shared heritage.



Main facade of Batchelor's Choice shows the original 3-bay wide portion on the left, and the taller 2-bay wide ca. 1840s addition on the right. The doorway and porch were added in the 1840s.



The servant's quarter, located less than 400 feet from the main house.

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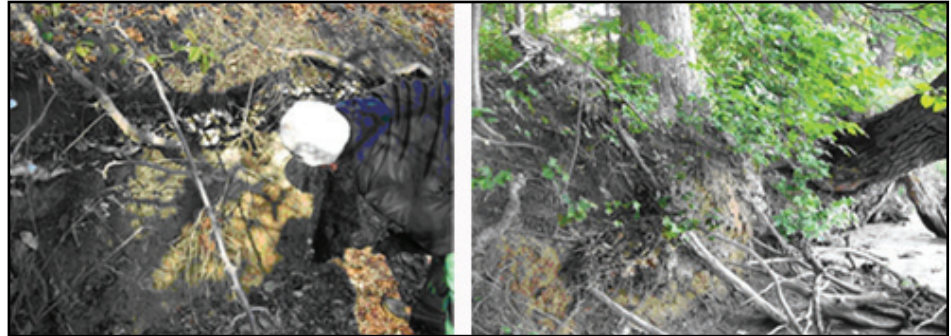
Based on our research, erosion is more of a threat to sites that have experienced minimal shoreline stabilization measures. The bluffs that typify eastern Anne Arundel County are particularly susceptible to erosional forces intensified by changing climate. In areas where the coast has already been stabilized, sea level rise is the bigger threat. This assumes that anything is left of a site once shoreline stabilization is completed – which is not often the case.

Shell middens represent the site type that will be most affected by sea level rise. About 76% of recorded middens will be inundated by 2 ft of rise and over 81% will be inundated by 5 ft of

rising seas. This represents a striking loss of information about the ancient prehistoric and more recent historic residents of the County.

In 2011, the team will work with County planners to develop appropriate policies and responses to deal with this natural threat. We will also engage in considerable public outreach efforts to encour-

age citizens to become stewards of their heritage resources. While not every site can, or should, be saved from destruction by natural forces, heightening awareness of the rich heritage resources that surround us is the first step towards mitigating the damage that we may see inflicted upon our cultural heritage in the coming decades.



Jane examines the Fox Creek III (18AN287) shell midden in 2009 (left) and the severely eroded sterile bank present in 2010 (right).

Intern Update!

~ Lauren Schiszik

This fall, the *Lost Towns Project* hosted eight interns, including yours truly. We had several students doing archaeology internships, including Bryanne Ottey, a senior Art History and Psychology major at UMBC; Michael Lynch, a rising sophomore at UMD; Kathrina Aben, who received her B.A. in Anthropology from Howard University in May; Sarah Mattes, who recently received her B.A. in Anthropology at St. Mary's College of Maryland; and Jennifer Allen, who is pursuing her Masters in Applied Anthropology at UMD. Jenna Zimmerman, who is completing her Masters in Applied Anthropology at UMD, continued her internship from this summer researching colonial plantation landscapes and establishing a model for determining slave quarter locations.

Gilbert Mbeng, who completed his Masters in Historic Preservation at UMD in December, conducted contextual research on African American life and architecture in Anne Arundel County from 1850-1900. His research provides us with critical information to better understand and preserve African American resources from slavery to post-emancipation. For my internship, I assisted with an analysis of the expansion of a Target Investment Zone (an economic driver related to heritage tourism) in Edgewater, and conducted research for the National Register nomination for Batchelor's Choice. My internship was conducted to complete my Masters in Historic Preservation at UMD, which I received in December.

Thanks to all of our interns this fall! They brought terrific skills, experience, and energy and were a delight to host.

Lost Towns Project Staff

Al Luckenbach - Director/County Archaeologist

John Kille - Assistant Director

C. Jane Cox - Assistant Director/
Cultural Resources Planner

Darian Schwab - Historic Preservation
Planner

Shawn Sharpe - Field Director/
Conservation Specialist

Jessie Grow - Lab Director/Education
& Volunteer Coordinator/Archaeologist

Stephanie Sperling - Research
Archaeologist

Steve Tourville - Archaeologist/Lab
Specialist

Part Time

Matt Bowling - Assistant Architectural
Historian

Carolyn Gryczkowski - Lab Specialist

Lauren Schiszik - Archaeologist/Intern
Coordinator/Newsletter Editor

Tony Lindauer - Researcher



This artifact was found at the Chew site during the 2010 season.
We know what it is - do you?

Email your guess to Jessie Grow at volunteers@losttownsproject.org. The first person to guess correctly will win a free *Lost Towns Project* t-shirt!

Lost Towns Project



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